AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-14. (canceled).

15. (currently amended) A polarizing plate comprising a first protective film, a polarizing film and a second protective film, wherein at least one of the first protective film and the second protective film is a cellulose ester film comprising a cellulose ester, fine particles having an average particle diameter of 0.01 to 1.0 μm and a polymer prepared by polymerizing at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters and acrylic esters, the polymer having a weight average molecular weight of not more than 5,000, wherein the rate of mass change of the cellulose ester film is not more than 2%, the rate of mass change being represented by the following formula:

Rate of mass change (%) = (|y-z|/y) X 100 wherein y is the weight of the cellulose ester film measured at 23 ± 3° C and at 55 ± 3% RH, and z is the weight of the cellulose ester film measured at 23 ± 3° C and at 55 ± 3% RH after the film has been stored at 80 ± 3° C and at 90 ± 3% RH for 48 hours, and then stored at 23 ± 3° C and at 55 ± 3% RH for 24 hours~~; and~~

~~wherein the moisture vapor transmittance of the cellulose ester film with a thickness of 40 μm is not more than 250 g/m^2·24 h at 80 ± 5° C and at 90 ± 5% RH~~.

16. (currently amended) A liquid crystal display comprising a first polarizing plate, a second polarizing plate, and a liquid crystal cell provided between the first and

second polarizing plates, the second polarizing plate being arranged on the viewer side of the display, wherein the first polarizing plate has a first film, a second film and a first polarizing film between the first and second films so that the second film is provided on the first polarizing film on the liquid crystal cell side, the second polarizing plate has a third film, a fourth film and a second polarizing film between the third and fourth films so that the third film is provided on the second polarizing film on the liquid crystal cell side, and at least one of the first, second, third and fourth films is a cellulose ester film comprising a cellulose ester, fine particles having an average particle diameter of 0.01 to 1.0 μm and a polymer prepared by polymerizing at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters and acrylic esters, the polymer having a weight average molecular weight of not more than 5,000, wherein the rate of mass change of the cellulose ester film is not more than 2%, the rate of mass change being represented by the following formula:

Rate of mass change (%) = (|y-z|/y) X 100 wherein y is the weight of the cellulose ester film measured at 23 ± 3° C and at 55 ± 3% RH, and z is the weight of the cellulose ester film measured at 23 ± 3° C and at 55 ± 3% RH after the film has been stored at 80 ± 3° C and at 90 ± 3% RH for 48 hours, and then stored at 23 ± 3° C and at 55 ± 3% RH for 24 hours~~; and~~

~~wherein the moisture vapor transmittance of the cellulose ester film with a thickness of 40 μm is not more than 250 g/m^2·24 h at 80 ± 5° C and at 90 ± 5% RH~~.

17. (canceled).

18. (previously presented) The polarizing plate of claim 15, wherein the polymer contains an alkyl acrylate monomer in an amount of not less than 30 weight % or an alkyl methacrylate monomer in an amount of not less than 30 weight %.

19. (previously presented) The polarizing plate of claim 18, wherein the polymer contains a methyl acrylate monomer in an amount of not less than 30 weight %.

20. (previously presented) The polarizing plate of claim 15, wherein the polymer has a water solubilizing group.

21. (previously presented) The polarizing plate of claim 20, wherein the water solubilizing group is a hydroxyl group.

22. (previously presented) The polarizing plate of claim 15, wherein the content of said polymer in the cellulose ester film is 0.5 to 30 weight % based on the cellulose ester film.

23-25. (canceled).

26. (previously presented) The polarizing plate of claim 15, wherein the thickness of the cellulose ester film is 30 to 150 μm.

27. (previously presented) The polarizing plate of claim 15, wherein the fine particle content of the film is 0.005 to 0.3 weight %.

28. (previously presented) The polarizing plate of claim 15, wherein the fine particles are silicon dioxide particles.

29. (new) The polarizing plate of claim 15, wherein the moisture vapor transmittance of the cellulose ester film with a thickness of 40 μm is not more than 250 $g/m^2 \cdot 24$ h at 80 ± 5° C and at 90 ± 5% RH.

30. (new) A method for preparing a cellulose ester film comprising a cellulose ester and a polymer prepared by polymerizing at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters and acrylic esters, the method comprising the steps of:

casting a cellulose ester dope containing the monomer and a photopolymerization initiator on a metal support to form a cellulose ester web;

applying light to the web to initiate photopolymerization, whereby the polymer is produced in the web;

peeling the web from the metal support; and

drying the web in a drying apparatus to obtain a cellulose ester film.

31. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein the polymer has a weight average molecular weight of not more than 5,000.

32. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein the cellulose ester dope further contains fine particles having an average particle diameter of 0.01 to 1.0 μm.

33. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein the drying apparatus comprises a tenter.